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# Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 CU-02 /084 W
---------- 042225
R 031144Z OCT 76
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9368
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 9907

PARIS FOR NESCO

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: AORG, OCON, UNESCO, IR
SUBJ: ISRAEL'S REQUEST FOR INCLUSION IN UNESCO EUROPEAN REGION

REF: STATE 240292

1. POLCOUNS RAISED THIS QUESTION WITH MFA HEAD OF INTER-
NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS DEPARTMENT SAYAR OCTOBER 3. HE
DISCUSSED IRAN'S HELPFUL ROLE IN SUCH MATTERS IN THE PAST
AND SIAD HE WISHED TO ALERT MFA TO UPCOMING PROBLEM IN
NAIROBI MEETING LATER THIS MONTH. POLCOUNS NOTED IRANIANS
HAVE FREQUENTLY EXERCISED LEADERSHIP ROLE BEHIND THE SCENES
AND ARE KNOWN AS GOOD FRIENDS OF U.S. WHO ARE FAMILIAR
WITH U.S. GOVERNMENTAL PROCESSES. THEREFORE, MFA MAY
WISH INCLUDE IN INSTRUCTIONS TO ITS DELEGATION FACT USG
IS VERY INTERESTED IN ISRAELI ITEM WHICH HAS IN PAST AND
MAY IN FUTURE CAUSE PROBLEM FOR U.S. ORGANIC RELATIONSHIP
WITH UNESCO.

2. SAYER SHOWED COMPLETE UNDERSTANDING. HE OBSERVED
IRANIAN DELEGATION WOULD PROBABLY AS USUAL BE LED BY
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MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND HIGHER EDUCATION. MRS. RAADI OF IO

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DEPARTMENT WOULD REPRESENT MFA ON DELEGATION. HE EXPLAINED
IRAN'S POLICY OF VOTING ALONG WITH ITS ARAB NEIGHBORS ON
ALL MATTERS INVOLVING ISRAEL, BUT IN SAME BREATH NOTED
EFFORTS IRANIAN DELEGATION HAD MADE AT 1974 GC AND ELSE-
WHERE TO DISSUADE ARABS FROM EXTREME RESOLUTIONS. HE
AGREED HE WOULD PREPARE FOR FOREIGN MINISTER KHALATBARY A
MEMORANDUM NOTING SPECIAL U.S. INTEREST IN THIS MATTER AND
"CATASTROPHIC CONSEQUENCES"(HIS WORDING) OF ANY U.S.
WITHDRAWAL FROM UNESCO. HE WOULD RECOMMEND LOBBYING EFFORTS
BY MADE BY IRAN DELEGATION, AS WELL AS THROUGH WELL-PLACED
IRANIAN REPRESENTATIVE ON UNESCO EXECUTIVE BOARD, FAVORING
ACCEPTANCE OF EXECUTIVE BOARD'S RECOMMENDATION WITHOUT
CHALLENGE TO ISRAEL. HE WOULD NOTE FACE-SAVING DEVICE OF
"ABSENCE" ON SUCH VOTE IS AVAILABLE TO ARAB AND OTHER MOSLEM
STATES. SHOULD SOME ARABS INSIST ON CHALLENGING ISRAEL, HE
WOULD RECOMMEND EVERY EFFORT BE MADE FOR IRAN TO ABSTAIN,
OR OTHERWISE ABSENT ITSELF FROM VOTING. SAYAR ADDED,
HOWEVER, THAT IF WORSE CAME TO WROST, IRAN MIGHT HAVE TO
VOTE FOR WHAT HE HOPED WOULD BE ONLY A MILD RESOLUTION
AGAINST ISRAEL SINCE IRAN COULD NOT AFFORD TO BE OUT OF
STEP WITH ITS ARAB NEIGHBORS, PARTICULARLY THOSE IN THE
GULF, WHO FEEL STRONGLY ON ISRAELI QUESTION.

3. COMMENT: THIS IS ABOUT AS MUCH AS WE CAN DO HERE IN
ADVANCE OF NAIROBI MEETING. WE HOPE TO FLLOW UP ONCE
MORE ON THIS MATTER CLOSER TO THE TIME OF THE MEETING.
IMPORTANT THING IS TO ACTIVATE IRANIANS BEHIND THE SCENES
IN ADVANCE OF ANY ARAB-LED RESOLUTION. HOWEVER, SHOULD
SUCH A RESOLUTION MATERIALIZE WE CANNOT EXPECT IRAN TO
VOTE CONTRARY TO WHAT IT FEELS TO BE ITS VERY BASIC
INTEREST--I.E., TO KEEP IN STEP WITH THE MAJOR ARAB
STATES ON THIS ISSUE.
HELMS

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